



CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL



VOL. XVIII; NO. 33

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1948

Subscription \$2.00 Per Year

RHODES NAMED SOUTHERN DIRECTOR OF AFL

New Year's Message

By WILLIAM GREEN



The year 1949 brings to all citizens of the United States grounds for deep gratitude for democratic institutions and the Bill of Rights which our forefathers provided for themselves and their children and which were transmitted to future generations.

The richness of this heritage stands as a priceless possession as we daily witness the slavery which marks the new invasions of the barbarians from Asia, who darken the churches, regiment the press, institute forced labor camps through the espionage of secret police, and impose one pattern for the whole of life. Against Communist reversion to the Dark Ages, the American way of life stands out even more glowingly—freedom of decision with responsibility for using that freedom with due regard for the rights of others.

Last year, those hostile to unions prevailed upon Congress to modify the law assuring workers the right to collective bargaining with regulations and restrictions that would nullify freedom of contract, and hedged this regulation about by granting the government the right to injunctive control labor disputes, by facilitating lawsuits, and by imposing "class" requirements on workers.

American workers did not resort to violence or illegal resistance, but like democratic citizens sought to establish the meaning of the law by legal machinery. All this led up to our action in carrying the issue to final decision by the voting citizens of this country in a presidential election. That decision was unmistakable in the vote given to the presidential candidate of the party which pledged repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act in its platform and whose presidential candidate pledged himself to that end. The election of President Truman and the vote giving Democratic Party control of Congress, was the reply to the reactionary advocates of anti-union legislation which echoed round the world as evidence of the effectiveness of democratic principles.

The American Federation of Labor is deeply gratified by this victory which vindicated constructive methods and we are confident that campaign promises will be kept. When freedom of contract is restored to labor, the American Federation of Labor is ready to assume the accompanying responsibility for wise use of rights.

Not only do we want rights and opportunities for workers in the United States of America, but for the workers of all countries. With the growing interdependence of the economies of all countries we find that un-freedom in one country menaces the freedom of workers in other countries, so we believe in international organization of the workers of all countries for mutual progress and protection. We fought the second World War to rid ourselves of the menace which totalitarian states became to human freedom only to find that the most cruel dictatorial state had used the years of war to scheme for new opportunities for aggression in order to impose communism on other peoples.

During the war we carried on relief for victims of oppression by dictators and since the war we have tried to aid and restore free trade unions as the bulwark of human freedom throughout the world.

Since we as trade unionists have rights and responsibilities in keeping with our democratic institutions, we, in turn, should work for the advancement of democratic ideals nationally and internationally and support our government in promotion of these same ideals.

The USSR has declared war on all free governments and free societies and plans to impose a controlled press and controlled education upon such people, together with suppression of church and family life as we know it. The Communist regime recognizes no personal rights and no law—only the will of dictators designed by party officers. Party members seek to infiltrate all our institutions to control them in the interests of Moscow.

As members of the world's strongest, most militant trade union organization, let us arm ourselves in this world crisis with a determination to maintain freedom that will make us invincible. By uniting with free trade unions in other countries, we can form a global chain for defense and maintenance of human freedom. We must be on guard against the enemy in our unions, our press, our community, and in all world relationships.

Atlanta, Ga. — President William Green has announced the appointment of J. L. Rhodes, a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local No. 627, Jacksonville, as Southern Director of Organization.

Mr. Rhodes has been on the organizing staff of the American Federation of Labor since 1939. For the last two and one-half years he has been attached to the Southern office as assistant Southern Director of Organization under the direction of Director Googe, who has recently resigned to accept Vice Presidency of his International Union.

Atlanta, Ga. — Upon the announcement of the retirement from the directorship of the Southern Organizing staff at a recent conference of the Organizers of the American Federation of Labor and State Federation of Labor officials in Atlanta, assembled delegates expressed the general consensus of opinion in organized labor throughout the South by expressing to Vice President George L. Googe their regrets at losing him and inviting his continued participation in the general organized labor activities in the South.

Mr. Googe was elected Vice President of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union of North America, following the passing of the late George L. Berry, President of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union of North America.

His new duties will call for all of his individual time, save for his activities in the general movement, he will devote his entire time to the interests of the Pressmen's International Union.

As a small token of expression and in full recognition of the fine and constructive services given to the labor movement during a period of over twenty years work directing the forces of the Southern Organizing staff, the unionists attending the conference, the State Federation of Labor officers and the organizing staff presented to Mr. and Mrs. Googe a silver service set.

Mr. Googe announced to the conference that as Vice President of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union he would, in the future have the same interest in the preservation of the American Federation of Labor's position in the South and extend all his organizational work as though he was on the organizing staff of the American Federation of Labor.

RESIGNS FROM AFL



George L. Googe

TAKES GOOGE'S PLACE



J. L. Rhodes

Much Work Remains To Be Done Aiding Handicapped

Speaking for all labor, A. J. Hayes, General Vice President of the International Association of Machinists, has urged continuation of the President's Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

As labor chairman for NEPH, Mr. Hayes reported to the President's Committee at its meeting last week in Washington that "neither we nor representatives of other segments of society accomplished all we should have."

"We have made some progress in helping the physically handicapped find jobs for which they are suited," Mr. Hayes declared. "But we have only made a beginning in the tremendous task of eliminating the apathy and indifference in the public mind which has been the principal stumbling block in rehabilitating our handicapped citizens."

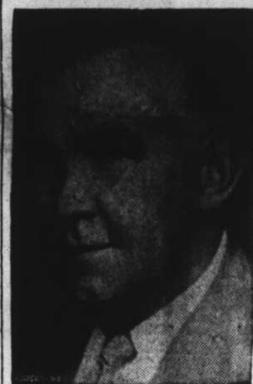
As an example of the effective participation of local labor groups in NEPH week this year, Mr. Hayes cited the activities of the NEPH labor committee of Marion, Ohio.

This group, in addition to using the press and radio to call the community's attention to the physically handicapped problem, sponsored an essay and poster contest, with prizes to the best three entries in each category and set up and ran a placement bureau.

As a result of this program in one community sixty handicapped workers were placed in jobs during the week out of 86 applicants who registered for employment.

In order to assure an even more effective program in 1949, the NEPH labor committee in Marion agreed to start planning next year's program early in April, Mr. Hayes reported.

During the two weeks preceding NEPH week last October, the



Al Hayes

labor committee distributed more than 40,000 copies of its pamphlet "Brothers," explaining the purposes of NEPH week and enlisting the active co-operation of national and local trade unions.

Mr. Hayes explained that distribution of this pamphlet is continuing as a reminder that this job is not limited to one week in the year.

"We look forward," the labor committee chairman concluded, "to a steadily increasing interest by labor unions throughout the coun-

American Labor In 1949

A New Year's Day Statement by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin

The year 1949 finds the American wage earner better off than any other wage earner in the world, and assured that his freedom will be protected and his economic advantages improved.

Our standard of living has been mounting steadily for a century. Today an ordinary worker's hourly wage buys four times what his great grandfather's hourly wage bought in 1847.

His weekly wages represent a three-fold gain in purchasing power over 100 years ago, for a workweek that has shrunk by one-third.

The quantity and quality of goods and services available to him beyond the basic requirements of living have contributed substantially to his well-being and enjoyment of life. They are the measure of the high standard of living which he enjoys.

There have been marked improvements also in his health and life expectancy, education, recreation and travel, civil and political rights.

The growth of the labor movement has given him a greater participation in group economic and political decisions, and a more direct voice in his Government.

Two factors have contributed to the constant improvement of the purchasing power of his hourly and weekly wages: increased productivity and greater bargaining power.

Increases in real wages, or purchasing power, have more nearly approximated increases in productivity in recent years when union strength was on the wane and protection of the right of collective bargaining became a Government policy.

The labor movement is 16 million strong today, and showing signs of continued vigorous growth.

American wage-earners and their unions have contributed to the strength and welfare of the Nation.

Productivity is again on the upswing as technological developments made during the war are adapted to peacetime production.

This will provide for further improvements in our standard of living if the workers are given their just share of the productivity increases.

The future welfare of labor and the Nation depends on a free, democratic union movement that can bargain wisely and well with free management for a just balance between productivity, wages and prices.

Government has its part to do, to improve the health and insurance facilities available to all the people, especially the unfortunate and weak, and to keep the economy strong.

Those programs add up to a policy of programs and evolution attained through a democratic Government and a democratic free people.

We are going forward, the way we always have, under a system of justice and freedom to all our citizens.



MAURICE J. TOBIN

Secretary, U. S. Department of Labor

READY — AIM!



FIRE!!

